SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the flourishing black economy in the coal-fields of Dhanbad;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the income-tax officials have failed to book even known economic offenders in the area;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what measures are proposed to be taken to check the menace of black economy in the coal fields of Dhanbad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) There are reports of evasion and avoidance of income-tax in this area. There are no economic offenders against whom action has not been taken. Direct Tax authorities have already intensified their work to check the menace.

Opening of spinning mills in Maharashtra

2859. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have given permission to set up Spinning Mills which were not recommended by Maharashtra Government and have withheld permission to Spinning Mills which were recommended by the State Government;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for giving or withholding the permission in each case;

(c) whether Government are aware that such a decision has created regional imbalance in Maharashtra as the Central Government have permitted Spinning Mills in the areas where cotton is not produced and rejected such proposals for the areas where cotton is produced; and

(d) if so, what fresh steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Since licensing of new spinning mills is governed by the locational guidelines. it is not possible to accept recommendation of the State Government in every case.

(c) and (d) The existing locational guidelines are based on industrial backwardness of the area which are normally applicable to cooperative/public sector projects also. Moreover, production of cotton in the area is not the sole factor while considering such cases on merits.

Irrigation and power projects from Andhra Pradesh pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for clearance

2860. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many irrigation and power projects from Andhra Pradesh are pending with the Ministry for clearance from the environment and forest angle;

(b) what are the dates of their submission; and

(c) what are the reasons for not clearing these projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) Details are given in Statements-I and II.